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Memorandum

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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TO : File

DATE: September 19, 1977

FROM : CONS/RAMcCoy

SUBJECT: PEOPLE'S TEMPLE

I met today with ~~the Commissioner of Police to discuss~~ the entire question of the People's Temple. I detailed for him various problems that were coming up in the press in the United States about the People's Temple although I was quick to point out that as far as the Embassy was concerned none of these allegations have been substantiated. I also told him that as far as we knew there were no criminal indictments or warrants of arrest. I did indicate concern about the Government's move to stay the execution of court orders of September 10 and that I hoped that this would be resolved forthwith.

Commissioner Barker told me that he was somewhat concerned about this sudden official activity involving the People's Temple and in his last meeting with representatives of the organization he issued orders for them to have their ocean going vessel stopped at the immigration post, Morawhanna, for inspection before proceeding inland to Port Kaituma. I told him that I would inform him immediately if we received any information from any official U.S. Government Agency of any ongoing investigation pertaining to the People's Temple that they were smuggling prohibited items into Guyana.

Commissioner Barker stated that he had instructed THEIR representatives to insure that all firearms and ammunition that the organization possessed should be licensed in accordance with Guyanese law.

Commissioner Barker continued that until the organization proved otherwise he, of course, would treat them similarly to any other group of law abiding Americans and Guyanese. I fully agreed with the Commissioner's position regarding the People's Temple and said that was the Embassy's intention as well.

The meeting then concluded.

c.c.: John D. Blacken, Charge d'Affaires a.i.
CONS:RAMcCoy:ddh

5010-110

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